



LEVERETT

Franklin County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Quietly nestled in the Pioneer Valley, slightly to one side of the major highways, Leverett enjoys country living in comfortable proximity to town and city life.

Diversity is reflected in Leverett road names. Amherst, Montague and Shutesbury Roads lead to those neighboring towns, Long Plain Road suggests the town's flat, agricultural area. Rattlesnake Gutter is a legacy of the last ice age, with glacial ravine and soaring cliffs. Cave Hill, Teawaddle Hill, Juggler Meadow, and January Hills tickle imaginations. Tree-lined stone walls accompany the roads, which climb, dip and curve to expose varied vistas. Wood roads and trails on Brushy Mountain and surrounding hills disclose stone structures, cairns and old walls of unknown dates which housed early inhabitants.

The Sawmill River in the north end and Roaring Brook in the eastern part of town were crucial to the 19th century industrial period. Mills and shops proliferated, and Leverett was a self-sufficient community with goods and foods to spare, populated by hard-working farmers, lumbermen and shop hands. Recent years have brought a diversity of skills and lifestyles, as educators are drawn to the 5 college area; craftsmen, artists and musicians find a creative atmosphere; transportation and communication development allows professionals to choose their work base.

The architecture of Leverett's homes reflect these changes. Federal and Greek Revival houses are firmly anchored by venerable maples. Later capes and ranch houses and recent large modern homes have joined them to present a pleasing variety of individual dwellings. In a similar manner, religious buildings include not only the traditional Congregational and Baptist churches but a regional Friends Meeting House and a huge white Buddhist Peace Pagoda atop a hillside.

Leverett's people are consistently generous in sharing their many skills. Although they radiate in many directions, they come together in elementary school activities, to volunteer in town activities, to meet at the Village Coop and the town dump, with love and pride in their town.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

West central Massachusetts, bordered by Montague on the north, Wendell on the northeast, Shutesbury on the southeast, Amherst on the south, and Sunderland on the west. Leverett is about 29 miles north of Springfield, 92 miles west of Boston, and 166 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 22.99 sq. miles

Land Area: 22.85 sq. miles

Population: 1,785

Density: 78 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Amherst Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.9°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.5"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Shutesbury, Mt. Toby, Millers Falls, Greenfield

Regional Planning Agency

Franklin County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 548-9150

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1774

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	1,133		
Democrats	536	47.3	%
Republicans	136	12.0	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	461	40.7	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Leverett town, Franklin County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,663	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	1,663	100.0
Male.....	831	50.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	24	1.4
Female.....	832	50.0	Mexican.....	7	0.4
Under 5 years.....	70	4.2	Puerto Rican.....	5	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	98	5.9	Cuban.....	6	0.4
10 to 14 years.....	138	8.3	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	6	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	114	6.9	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,639	98.6
20 to 24 years.....	97	5.8	White alone.....	1,573	94.6
25 to 34 years.....	134	8.1	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	233	14.0	Total population.....	1,663	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	404	24.3	In households.....	1,628	97.9
55 to 59 years.....	122	7.3	Householder.....	632	38.0
60 to 64 years.....	67	4.0	Spouse.....	370	22.2
65 to 74 years.....	106	6.4	Child.....	459	27.6
75 to 84 years.....	60	3.6	Own child under 18 years.....	374	22.5
85 years and over.....	20	1.2	Other relatives.....	32	1.9
Median age (years).....	43.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	4	0.2
18 years and over.....	1,275	76.7	Nonrelatives.....	135	8.1
Male.....	619	37.2	Unmarried partner.....	48	2.9
Female.....	656	39.4	In group quarters.....	35	2.1
21 years and over.....	1,226	73.7	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	217	13.0	Noninstitutionalized population.....	35	2.1
65 years and over.....	186	11.2	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	92	5.5	Total households.....	632	100.0
Female.....	94	5.7	Family households (families).....	449	71.0
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	215	34.0
One race.....	1,648	99.1	Married-couple family.....	370	58.5
White.....	1,585	95.3	With own children under 18 years.....	165	26.1
Black or African American.....	4	0.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	58	9.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	9	0.5	With own children under 18 years.....	37	5.9
Asian.....	23	1.4	Nonfamily households.....	183	29.0
Asian Indian.....	1	0.1	Householder living alone.....	126	19.9
Chinese.....	4	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	33	5.2
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	220	34.8
Japanese.....	3	0.2	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	125	19.8
Korean.....	2	0.1	Average household size.....	2.58	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.92	(X)
Other Asian ¹	13	0.8	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	648	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	632	97.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	16	2.5
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	6	0.9
Some other race.....	27	1.6	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.8	(X)
Two or more races.....	15	0.9	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.2	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	632	100.0
White.....	1,600	96.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	512	81.0
Black or African American.....	4	0.2	Renter-occupied housing units.....	120	19.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	15	0.9	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.60	(X)
Asian.....	29	1.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.49	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	30	1.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0
Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0
Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The major axes of transportation in Franklin County, where Leverett is located, are State Route 2, the old Mohawk Trail, and Interstate Route 91, which follows the Connecticut River. The region is well-served by rail. The Springfield Terminal Railway (the former Boston and Maine) lines parallel the two major highways, and the Central Vermont Railway's main line passes N-S through the eastern portion.

Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 63, which runs N-S between the New Hampshire border and Amherst.

Rail

Amtrak's passenger rail service between Montreal and Washington, D.C. is accessible from nearby Amherst. The Central Vermont Railway offers freight rail service. Contact number: (802) 527-3402

Bus

Leverett is a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVRTA). There is no fixed route service, but PVRTA provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the Amherst Council on Aging.

Other

The Turners Falls Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 3,013'x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Leverett Historical Society

N. Leverett Road

(413) 367-2800

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.